

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Non-Communist Parties in the Chinese Communist Government

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Aside from the National Democratic Reconstruction Association\*, the principal non-Communist parties in the Chinese Communist Government are the Democratic League, the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee, the National Salvation Association and the Chih Kung Tang.
2. The Democratic League, under the leadership of CHANG Lan, is now the principal target for Chinese Communist Party (CCP) penetration. The CCP is making a determined effort to gain complete dominance over the League and is aided by the inherent weaknesses of it. Its leadership is disunited and consists largely of intellectuals and life-long professional politicians. Since it represents no definite social or economic group or class, and therefore lacks a specific reason for existence, its most serious weakness is its complete lack of popular support. Its days are numbered, but it may be useful temporarily for its prestige and because the Communists may wish to exploit the political experience and knowledge of its leaders.
3. The Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee (KTRC), led by LI Chi-shen, is in much the same situation as the Democratic League, except that the Communists do not take the KTRC seriously. They have succeeded in controlling LI Chi-shen and his associates to the point where they pose no threat to the CCP. At the same time, LI and his party are regarded by liberal non-Communists as old politicians and as basically war-lord types. They are hardly considered to be in the vanguard of revolution. The KTRC will remain as window dressing for the coalition government and may prove to be useful to more independent anti-Communist forces in the government.
4. The National Salvation Association will shortly be dissolved as an independent political party.\*\*This action will be the result of Communist pressure. The Association has been thoroughly penetrated and effectively controlled by the CCP for some time, and has ceased to serve a useful purpose.
5. The two parties which remain as effective political forces are the National Democratic Reconstruction Association and the Chung Kuo Chih Kung Tang, usually known as the Chih Kung Tang. CH'EN Ch'i-yu is the leader of this party. The Chih Kung Tang derives its support from overseas Chinese and from southern Chinese business and commercial interests. It is basically an anti-Communist group; its membership is heavily sprinkled with Western-educated Chinese and with overseas Chinese whose economic welfare is derived from foreign trade

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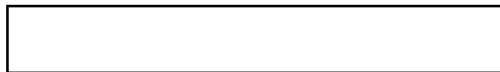



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and investment.

6. Leaders of the National Democratic Reconstruction Association regard the Chih Kung Tang as their natural ally in opposing the Communists in the coalition government. Cooperation between the two parties is now good and the hope is that they may unite. Leaders of both parties feel that their position against the CCP is strong enough to give hope of success.



\*\* Comment. A Chinese Communist radio announcement from Peiping of 19 December states that the Chinese People's National Salvation Association will cease to exist as a political organization.

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